



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Bryan Collier
Executive Director

February 1, 2018

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I would like to thank the members of Federal Communications Commission for the invitation to attend Wednesday's Fact-Finding Meeting on Contraband Devices in Prisons, and for your attention to this important public safety issue.

The purpose of my correspondence is not to highlight the threat posed by contraband wireless devices to public safety and prison security. The threat has been well documented, and it is apparent you recognize and appreciate the concerns expressed by correctional agencies, law enforcement officials and victim advocates.

Rather, I want to convey to you that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and other correctional agencies across the country have taken numerous measures to prevent their introduction, confiscate or render useless those devices that enter the system, and hold those who deliver or use the devices responsible.

There are routine searches of persons, cells, common areas, mail, deliveries, worksites and property, as well as targeted searches by specialized teams and comprehensive searches of entire institutions.

Technology frequently employed includes metal detectors, parcel scanners, body orifices security scanners and video surveillance systems. Canines trained in cell phone detection have been employed, and although cost and other factors limit their utilization, the agency has also installed managed access systems designed to help combat the use of contraband devices.

Working with law enforcement and prosecutors, criminal and administrative sanctions are utilized as part of a zero tolerance policy. In addition, state policy makers have helped facilitate our anti-contraband efforts, most recently by enacting legislation to address a relatively new means of introducing contraband through the use of drones.

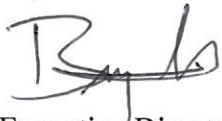
Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

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Although many means of combatting contraband wireless devices have been employed, and while they have undoubtedly had an impact, the challenge remains. I understand today's meeting is only for the purpose of fact-finding, but please know that if the FCC can take action which enables the TDCJ and other correctional agencies to employ an additional measure, particularly one that promises to be the most effective countermeasure to date, I believe the public would benefit greatly.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important issue.

Bryan Collier

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Collier', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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